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The People's Korea

No. 977 EVERY WEDNESDAY JANUARY 23, 1980 (1961年8月22日第3種郵便物認可)

President KIM IL SUNG Receives Foreign Guests

President Kim Il Sung received on Jan. 8, 9 and 12 the newly-appointed Norwegian Ambassador and "a government delegation of Equatorial Guinea and Egyptian Vice-President respectively, KCNA reported.

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Egyptian Vice-President

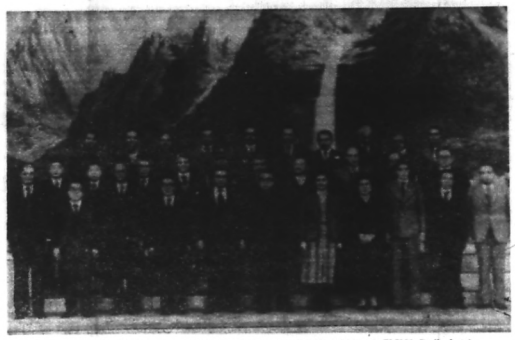
President Kim Il Sung received on Jan. 12 Egyptian Vice-President Mohamed Honni Mubarak, who paid an official goodwill visit to the DPRK from Jan. 10 to 13.

Present on the occasion were the Vice-President and his wife, Eez El Dine Mokhtar, First Chamberlain of the Presidency, Dr. Ousama El-Bazz, First Under Secretary of the State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and others and Hassan Shukry Saleh Salim, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the DPRK.

Also present were Vice-President Pak Sung Chul and his wife, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Ho Dam, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kil Jae Gyong and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the DPRK to the Arab Republic of Egypt Kang Man Su.

President Kim Il Sung had a conversation with the Vice-President in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

The Vice-President presented a gift of best wishes to President Kim Il Sung.



President Kim Il Sung met on Jan. 12 Egyptian Vice-President Mubarak (KCNA Radiophoto)

Equatorial Guinean Govt Del.

President Kim Il Sung on January 9 received the government delegation of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, which visited the DPRK from Jan. 8 to 9.

Present on the occasion were the members of the delegation headed by Eulogio Oyo Riquesa, Member of the Supreme Military Council of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and Supreme Military Governor Bioco Province.

Present there were Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Ho Dam and Minister of External Economic Affairs Chong Song Nam.

The head of the delegation conveyed a personal letter of His Excellency Obiang Nguema Mbasogo Chairman of the Supreme Military Council of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, to President Kim Il Sung.

The President had a conversation with the guests in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Norwegian Ambassador

President Kim Il Sung on January 8 received credentials from Tancred Ibsen, newly-appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Norway to the DPRK.

Present at the presentation ceremony was Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Ho Dam.

After receiving the credentials President Kim Il Sung had a conversation with the Ambassador.

President Exchanges New Year Cards

President Kim Il Sung received New Year cards and messages of greetings from foreign party and state leaders on the occasion of the New Year 1980, according to KCNA reports.

They wished President Kim Il Sung good health and a long life and Korean people successes this year in their struggle for socialist construction and the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

Follows a partial list of them.

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President Kim Il Sung received New Year's cards from: Fidel Castro Ruz, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba; Kaysone Phomvihane, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and Premier of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Souphanouvong, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and President of the Standing Committee of the People's Supreme Council of the LPDR; Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, President of the Republic of India; Ziaur Rahman, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Spyros Kyprianou, President of the Republic of Cyprus; Siaka Probyn Stevens, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone; Gnassingbe Eyadema, Chairman-Founder of the Togolese People's Rally and President of the Republic of Togo; Ahmadou Ahidjo, President of the United Republic of Cameroon; Hilla Limann, President of the Republic of Ghana; Seyni Kountche, Chairman of the Supreme Military Council of the Republic of Niger; Manuel Pinto Da Costa, President of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe; Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, leader of the People's National Congress of Guyana and Prime Minister of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; Georges Andre Chevallaz, President of the Confederation of Switzerland; and Olav the Fifth, King of Norway.

President Kim Il Sung sent New Year's cards to them.

He also received New Year's cards from Mohamed Anwar El Sadat, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Habib Bourguiba, President of the Republic of Tunisia; Aristides Pereira, President of the Republic of Cape Verde; Arthur Chung, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana; A.N. Kosygin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India; Pham Van Dong, Premier of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; and Truong Chinh, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

S. Korean Public Strongly Demand Reunification, Democracy

—Re Constitutional Revision—

The south Korean people of various strata are now opposing the present system which is trying to maintain the dictatorial system without Pak, demanding "immediate abolition of the yusin constitution" and a "constitutional revision at the earliest time". They claim that a new "constitution" should include a clause expressing the will of the nation to reunification, provide for guarantee of fundamental human rights, guarantee of the freedom of speech and the press, guarantee of the three rights of labour, a weakened presidential power. Voices of south Korean people for reunification and democratization are growing day by day even under "martial law" after Pak's assassination. This is shown by south Korea's No. 1 Opposition party the New Democratic Party's "Public Hearing on the Constitutional Revision" and public opinion surveys recently conducted by south Korean newspapers.

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July 4 Joint Statement

On January 11, the "Second Public Hearing on the Constitutional Revision" was held at the New Democratic Party's head office in Seoul with the participation of more than 1,000 NDP members including its President Kim Yong Sam and leading members. At the public hearings, 11 specialists from various circles expressed their opinions.

Choe Ok Cha (female), former director of the Institute of Women's Problems of Ribwa Women's University, stressed:

"The constitution of the Fifth Republic should develop the popular will of the Tonghak revolution, the national spirit of the March First Movement, the democratic spirit of the April 19 revolution and the will to unification of the July 4 joint statement and embody the national aspiration for a unified Korea." (*Dong-A Ilbo*, January 12, 1980).

Li Ho Ung(male), former president of the Student Council of the Science and Literature College of Seoul National University said:

"In an additional clause to the new constitution, the constitution states that it is a provisional, pending the preparation of a united constitution of a united fatherland, indicating the direction of unification."

At the "First Public Hearing on the Constitutional Revision" held on December 19 last year in the NDP head office, Han Wan Sang(male), former professor of Seoul National University said: "To erase the legitimacy of its history, the Tonghak revolution, the March First Movement and the April 19 Uprising, which had shown the popular, national and democratic will of the nation must be elucidated in the preamble of a new constitution." and "In spite of the unfortunate condition of division of the country into north and south, efforts should be made for national unification through a balanced development of democratization."

Thus, personages from various circles of south Korea demand that the reunification problem be laid down in a new constitution as an important national task.

Kim Hak Jun, assistant professor of Seoul University, in his theses entitled "A Turning Point in the Reunification Movement"(which was contributed to the January issue of a prestigious monthly journal *Sin Dong A*), stressed "In the 80's expression of popular aspirations for unification must be institutionally guaranteed."

Human Rights

Seventeen personages from various circles expressed their opinions on "constitutional revision" and most of them called for a "presidential system" through a direct popular election. They also asserted that in order to limit the power of the "president," his term of office should be limited to 4 years and a re-election should be allowed only once, and the "presidential emergency measures" should be abolished or be circumscribed by other legal procedures.

They also stressed the fundamental human rights as absolutely inviolable, the restoration of the "court system of examining the justifiableness of an arrest" absolute guarantee of freedom of speech and the press, guarantee of the three labour rights and the enforcement of a self-government system, and stressed a need for thorough democratization.

Regarding the time of the constitutional revision and the change of the government, most speakers said, "The ealier, the better."

South Korean newspapers' public opinion surveys and questionaires to personages of various strata show that the broad masses of people are aspiring after democratization and a constitutional revision and a government change at the earliest possible time.

Opinions of Public Law Specialists

South Korean specialists on public laws such as the "constitution" and administration laws demand that a democratic system should be established by July this year through a "direct presidential election."

This was revealed by the Dong-A Ilbo's questionaire on the nature of a new constitution, its time and procedures. (January 5 issue of the *Dong-A Ilbo*) The questionnaire covered the members of the "south Korean public law society" which include constitutionalists and administration lawyers. Seventy-six out of 93 gave valid answers.

Of the respondents, 90.8 percent demanded a direct presidential election. 82.6 percent considered it necessary to weaken the powers of the "president." This may be taken as a reflection of their opposition to the "yusin" dictators who are maintaining this tyrannical rule aiming to prolong their stay in power, relying upon the rubber-stamp body, the "National Conference for Unification."

About 50 percent of the replies claimed that a draft constitution should be drawn up by a constitutional convention and should be submitted to a national referendum.

At the same time 67.1 percent of the replies demanded a more powerful national assembly and its power to supervise administrative affairs. The power of the national assembly is extremely hamstrung under the "yusin" dictatorship. Also they strongly demanded the independence of the judiciary, which have now been turned into a mere servent to the "government."

As many as 87 percent of the respondents said that "the chief justice of the supreme court" must be elected by a conference to recommend judges and a congress of judges, instead of being appointed by the president.

Further, 97.4 percent were of the opinion that "the court system of examining the justifiableness of an arrest" should be restored to put an end to the fascist method of suppression by which people are now arrested without a warrant.

Revision by August

According to a public opinion survey conducted by the *Chung-Ang Ilbo*(December 22 issue in 1979), on the period required for the drafting of a new "constitution," 24.8 percent answered, "within 3 months," 36.5 percent "within 6 months," 10.6 percent "within 8 months," thus 71.9 percent said it should be 8 or less months.

Thus, the south Korean people, even in a severe situation under "martial law," are strongly demanding their country's reunification and democratization.

Chongryun Chairman Speaks to Korean Businessmen on Outlook in '80s

A New Year lecture meeting for Korean traders and industrialists in Tokyo was held on January 15 at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo under the coponsorship of the Association of Korean Traders and Industrialists in Tokyo and the Korean Credit Association in Tokyo.

The lecture meeting was participated by more than one thousand Korean traders and industrialists.

Also present at the meeting were Chairman Han Duk Su of the CSC of Chongryun (General Association of Korean Residents in Japan), Vice-Chairman Li Gye Baek, Secretary-General So Man Sui and personages concerned.

Chairman Han Duk Su gave a lecture under the title "Prospects for Korea's Reunification in the 1980's."

Saying that today the situation within and without is developing favorabhy for our people though it is complicated and in flux, Chairman Han Duk Su said in effect as follows.

In the 1970's, the power of the imperialist reactionary forces including the U.S. imperialism was weakened and its prestige fell, whereas the progressive forces struggling against imperialism and the U.S. and for independence and sovereignty was further strengthened.

In the 1980's, too, the imperialist reactionaries headed by the U.S. will make every effort to provoke a new war and wage destructive maneuvers all over the world including Asia and the Middle East.

As a result, confrontation between the anti-imperialist forces and the imperialist reactionaries and confrontation between the patriotic forces and the unpatriotic forces and confrontation between the forces for reunification and the forces for division will be further intensified in the 80's.

"Let's make the 1980's a decade of years for our country's reunification and hand over a unified fatherland to the next generation."—This is our slogan for the 1980's.

Referring to the DPRK's latest proposal made in the letters of Vice-President Kim Il and Premier Li Jong Ok to 12 south Korean political, religious and military leaders—"For the independent and peaceful reunification we consider that talks between the authorities, along with a comprehensive north-south political consultative conference which we have already proposed to hold, should be held and that we are ready to realize talks between the high-level authorities," Chairman Han Duk Su stressed that the south Korean side should give a positive answer to this proposal.

Earlier this month, or on the 8th, a central meeting was held to pledge to promote the work of Chongryun this year, with the participation of more than 4,000 Koreans here.

Chongryun Chairman Han Duk Su gave a lecture on January 15 to more than 1,000 Korean businessmen here.

KOREA FOCUS

U.S. vs Korean Negotiations

The United States promptly made public its stand toward the proposals of the DPRK in 12 letters to the south Koreans concerning the reunification question. State Department spokesman Hodding Carter called on January 14 the proposals "an encouraging development" and stressed American support for direct talks between north and south Korean authorities on the assumption of their aim being the reduction of tension. Defense Secretary Brown, on a visit to China, said on January 13 in an ABC program "Issues and Answers," that though the United States supported north-south talks, he did not expect the latest proposals would produce some sort of political progress. He, recalling the refusal of Pyongyang to recognize Seoul as a legitimate government, denied the possibility of progress in north-south talks pending a shift in that stance.

Those American pronouncements show that despite their avowed support for north-south Korean talks, the Americans insist on the resumed talks contradicting the aspirations of the Korean people in their aim and contents. The Korean people regard it as their national target number one to achieve territorial reintegration. They believe that the resumed north-south talks should aim at having the country reunified. Nevertheless, the United States wants to limit the aim of the talks to "the reduction of tension" and make their assumption the recognition of Seoul as a separate legitimate government. In other words, the Americans want to exploit the resumed talks as a forum to justify the division of Korea as "two Koreas" and perpetuate that split. Such talks are the north-south talks they want to support and hope would be brought to success.

With regard to the reduction of tension, its root cause lies in the forced continuation of the division of Korea into north and south with the foreign troops stationed in south Korea. A genuine and complete end to the tension in Korea would come only when its cause has been removed, i.e., the reunification of Korea and the withdrawal of foreign troops from south Korea.

The United States is now launching a world-wide campaign to denounce the Soviet Union's military presence in Afghanistan. An empty bottle is apt to make a big noise. The American campaign is not convincing for its boisterousness. The Americans carried out their 10-year-long aggressive war in Vietnam in defiance of the conscience of the world and had the CIA engineer the overthrow of governments in many countries. At present, 480,000 GI's are deployed in major allies of the United States, one quarter of its troop strength, with diverse forms of intervention in the internal affairs of a number of countries. Such being the case, the Americans are totally disqualified to take issue with the conduct of the Soviet Union. In any event, the United States is applying heavy pressure to bear upon its allies and other vulnerable countries to join its anti-Russian campaign. This outrageous act, however, is meeting with a stiff resistance in a host of countries.

The American behaviour is likewise blatantly outrageous on the Korean Peninsula. Let us recall the things on the eve of the end of the last world war. The Soviet troops engaged the Japanese in battles and advanced into the northern part of the Korean Peninsula in order to wipe out the remnant Japanese forces. Then, the American forces were still bogged down in battles with the Japanese on the Philippines, with their advance on the island of Okinawa. It was only three weeks after the end of the world war that the American forces landed on south Korea. Then, no bloodshed was made by the Americans for the liberation of Korea, but they occupied south Korea, causing the division of the Korean Peninsula into north and south. For 35 years since, the Americans have continued to rule that half of the peninsula through first the Syngman Rhee regime and then the Pak Jung Hi junta, while holding complete operational control over the south Korean armed forces.

In the wake of the assassination of Pak Jung Hi last year, the United States had the check to warn against what is called any external attempt to exploit the situation in south Korea and massed its military forces, air force and naval units in the adjacent areas of the Korean Peninsula, with the American forces placed on full alert in south Korea. Are the Americans arguing that they are not aliens for the Korean people? Are they claiming that south Korea is part of their territory as they are its occupiers? What on earth is the nature of the American-south Korean joint military maneuver, "Magex-80"? What is the aim of the repeated violations of the DPRK air space by SR-71's? By all indications, the Americans are preparing for an attack on the DPRK. The present threat building up on the Korean Peninsula is clearly not that of a southward invasion from the north but that of a northward march from the south.

In our eyes, the Americans are attempting to force their old "two-Korea" policy on the DPRK by creating tension and building up their armed forces in south Korea. The RAND Corporation prepared a study paper for use by Defense Secretary Brown on his trip to Peking. The report on the security of Asia in the eighties takes believe that Pyongyang inclemently opposes the "two-Korea" policy and urges that the United States must achieve its policy objective of winning the Communist countries' acceptance of the "two-Korea" formula.

The Carter Administration has scrapped its election promise to withdraw U.S. forces from south Korea and reinforced them significantly. They seem to be intent on restoring its old dominant position in the world by returning to the policy of strength and on perpetuating the division of Korea by the same means. Such policy is a crime more serious than any others against the Korean people. The Americans are encouraging this sort of north-south talks. The Americans are big liars.

Pyongyang's Letters to South Koreans

Pyongyang Jan. 11 made its disarming peace overtures to Seoul in a renewed effort for the negotiated reunification of the Korean Peninsula. The overtures took forms of unusual letters addressed by DPRK top officials, Vice-President Kim Il and Premier Li Jong Ok to 12 south Korean political, social, religious and military leaders. **(See the other letters in the previous issue)**

Here are letters addressed by Kim Il, Vice-President of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and Chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland, to Chong Il Gwon, Permanent Adviser to the President of the Democratic Republican Party of south Korea, Kyong Il Dong, President of the Democratic Unification Party, An Pil Su, Chairman of the United Socialist Party, Kim Chol, Adviser to the United Socialist Party, Ham Sok Hon, Co-chairman of the National Union for Democracy and National Unification, Kim Su Hwan, Chairman of the Central Council of South Korean Roman Catholics and Li Hui Song, Chief of Staff of the Army.

☆ ☆

Mr. Chong Il Gwon
Permanent Advisor to the President of the Democratic Republican Party
Seoul

The present complicated situation surrounding us urgently demands we responsible politicians in the north and the south sincerely approach the question of the country's reunification from the Juche stand of nation.

We should discard dependence upon outside forces in conformity with the prevailing situation and the desire of the nation and pave the way out for the nation with the efforts of us Koreans through the collaboration, unity and reunification of the nation.

There exist differences between the north and the south in system and idea. But they can never be an obstacle to us in joining hands with each other as fellow countrymen and living as a reunified nation.

Believing that if the north and the south transcend the differences and start with a clean slate, not asking about the past, they will surely be able to pave the way to the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, we hope that the door of dialogue for reunification will be open as early as possible.

We think that a broadly representative north-south political consultative conference we have already proposed may be convened and, along with this, talks between the authorities may also be held.

Very heavy is the responsibility resting with us politicians in opening the door of dialogue and reunification.

Considering that contact and exchange of opinions between responsible politicians in the north and the south are significant, we express our hope to have contact with you as early as possible.

Panmunjom, Pyongyang or Seoul shall be chosen as a venue of contact, and a third country may also be chosen as a venue.

In the belief that you will respond to our proposal, I expect an affirmative reply.

Kim Il
Vice-President
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Secretary of the Central Committee Workers' Party of Korea
Chairman
Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland
Pyongyang, January 11, 1980

Mr. Ryang Il Dong
President
Democratic Unification Party
Seoul

We are sending this letter with ardent desire to jointly seek a solution of the reunification question which brooks no further delay, sharing the pains of national split which is continuing in the 1980's from the 1940's with you who have accumulated a lot of experiences as a leading figure in the south Korean political circles.

Being politicians of Korea who keenly feel the urgency of reunification alike, though active under different circumstances with differing political views, we must pool strength and wisdom to remove the tragedy of split, I think. Moreover, the present situation surrounding us urgently demands we display the strength of the whole nation and reunify the country without delay from the steadfast independent stand.

We politicians should draw a lesson from the tragic history in which the sufferings of split imposed upon us by foreign forces are lasting up to date and exchange our mission to the times and the nation by paving the road to national reunification through the collaboration and unity of the north and south.

Though there is this or that difference between us, I think, we share the same feelings in our concern for the future of the nation and hope for national reunification. So, I believe, we can unite and join hands with each other for reunification.

If the whole nation is to achieve reunification through collaboration and unity, there must be broad and multilateral contacts and dialogues between the north and the south.

Especially, the responsible politicians should assume the leading role in this, we think.

As for the dialogue for the reunification of the country, as we have already proposed time and again and you also expressed your clear stand, it should be a comprehensive, nation-wide dialogue participated in not only by the authorities but also by all the political parties and public organisations and personages of various strata in the north and the south and, at the same time, talks between the authorities may be held. if necessary.

Out of the desire to open the road of dialogue and reunification as early as possible, we propose, first of all, a direct meeting with you for an open-hearted exchange of views.

The earlier our contact, the better, we think. Panmunjom or Pyongyang or Seoul may be chosen as the venue and a third country will also be possible.

Hoping that a significant meeting with you will surely be realised for a discussion of important problems of the nation, I expect an affirmative reply from you.

Kim Il
Vice-President
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Secretary of the Central Committee Workers' Party of Korea
Chairman
Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland
Pyongyang, January 11, 1980

Mr. An Pil Su
Chairman
United Socialist Party
Seoul

The painful history of national division is now spanning 35 years. Now is not the time when responsible politicians in the north and the south should merely deplore the reality of the country where the entire fellow countrymen are undergoing the immeasurable misfortunes and hardships, their lot of a stateless nation replaced with the tragedy of division.

The complicated situation surrounding us today demand of our determined action more urgently than ever before. We consider that all the politicians in the north and the south should make redoubled efforts to reject the outside forces and achieve the reunification of the country with our own efforts in conformity with the demand of the national history which brooks not a moment's delay.

Though we differ in ideology and political view, we have no difference in desiring to put an end to the division of the country and achieve the reunification of the nation at an early date. We should value this common desire and find a way out for the nation through collaboration, unity and reunification.

To achieve the reunification through collaboration and unity, the north and the south should pave the way for dialogue and meet with each other to exchange views and narrow down differences.

We think a comprehensive political consultative conference participated in by the political parties, groupings and all strata, which we have already proposed and you also called for, may be convened, and we are ready to have talks between the authorities if necessary.

The leading role of us politicians is very important in opening the door of north-south dialogue and reunification.

Conscious of this mission, we hope to meet with you who have been active for many years in the south Korean political circles and exchange opinions in an open-hearted and unreserved way.

The earlier our contact, the better. Panmunjom, Pyongyang or Seoul, or a third country may be chosen as a venue.

I hope that you will send an affirmative reply to our proposal from the stand of sharing with us the responsibility for the destinies of the country and the naion.

Kim Il
Vice-President
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Secretary of the Central Committee Workers' Party of Korea
Chairman
Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland
Pyongyang, January 11, 1980

Mr. Kim Chol
Adviser to the United Socialist Party
Seoul

We are sending this letter out of the sincere desire to discuss the question of the country's reunification, the greatest task facing the nation, with you who are carrying on tireless activities for the democratic development in south Korea.

To our fellow countrymen who have entered the 1980's with the tragedy of national split, the reunification of the country is a pressing task which brooks no further delay.

Particularly, the very complicated situation surrounding our country today urgently demands we promote the cause of reunificatio n with redoubled efforts.

At the moment when the national awakening and efforts for the independent reunification are more urgent than ever before, I think, all the people who love the country should reject the interference of outside forces and take the road of accelerating the cause of reunification through collaboration and unity of the fellow countrymen.

Though we differ in ideology and political view, we are kindred of the same blood and the same nation who should advance hand in hand on the road of national reunification.

The most pressing task of the responsible politicians of Korea at the present juncture is to promote collaboration and unity and accelerate the cause of reunification by arranging the north-south dialogue at the earliest possible date.

The north-south dialogue should be a whole-nation dialogue represented not only by the authorities but also by the political parties and organizations in the north and the south and, at the same time, talks between the authorities may be held, if necessary.

Out of the desire for an early opening of the door of the dialogue and reunification, I hope, first of all, to meet you for an open-hearted exchange of views.

Our contact may be held in Panmunjom or Pyongyang or Seoul and in a third country. The earlier such contact, the better.

Hoping that a significant meeting with you for discussing the important affairs of the nation will surely be realized, I expect an affirmative reply from you.

Kim Il
Vice-President
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Secretary of the Central Committee Workers' Party of Korea
Chairman
Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland
Pyongyang, January 11, 1980

Mr. Ham Sok Hon
Co-chairman
National Union for Democracy and National Unification
Seoul

I am sending this letter to you with a desire to discuss the question of the country's reunification with you who are active as a leading opposition figure.

What grows still further with each passing day is the sufferings of the fellow countrymen caused by the national split and what increases year after year is the distance between the north and the south which are linked by the same land. This tragedy our fellow countrymen are undergoing cannot but arouse deep anxiety among all people.

Today when the situation surrounding the country is very complicated, if we let time pass leaving the north and the south in confrontation and split, we will surely fall a prey to the foreign forces and lose everything national.

Now is the time, we think, for the politicians in the north and the south to firmly join hands and reject the alien forces and open the door of reunification by the efforts of the nation.

At present juncture, the only way for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country is to achieve reunification through north-south collaboration and unity.

Though the politicians in the north and the south differ in ideology, religion and political view, they have no difference in worrying about the destiny of the country and the nation and valuing the reunification.

If they cherish and place this common desire above anything else, it will be possible for them to achieve the peaceful reunification of the country through unity.

We think it is imperative to resume the dialogue as early as possible and discuss at one table the reunification question for achieving north-south collaboration, unity and reunification.

To reflect the general will of the nation in the north and the south, we think, a north-south political consultative conference represented by broad circles including the political parties and public organisations may be convened and, along with this, talks between the authorities be also held.

In order to open the door of dialogue and reunification, the politicians in the north and the south should first of all exchange their views and narrow down the differences through multilateral contacts.

From this point of view, we hope to directly meet and discuss all the problems related to national reunification with you. We think such a contact should be held as early as possible and Panmunjom, Pyongyang or Seoul, or a third country may be chosen as its venue.

I hope you will send an affirmative reply to our proposal from the stand of valuing the reunification of the country and the future destiny of the nation.

Kim Il
Vice-President
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Secretary of the Central Committee Workers' Party of Korea
Chairman
Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland
Pyongyang, January 11, 1980

Mr. Kim Su Hwan
Chairman
Central Council of South Korean Roman Catholics
Seoul

I am sending this letter to you who are concerned about the misfortunes and hardships of the country and the nation out of the desire to settle the question of the country's reunification.

Our nation which had been subjected to the disgraceful lot of a stateless nation for as many as 36 years under the vicious colonial rule of Japanese imperialism have come a miserable life for 35 years, undergoing the new tragedy of national split following the August 15 liberation.

The only way to put an early end to these great disasters and pains that have been continuing for nearly a century and provide our fellow countrymen with a genuine life and welfare is for the north and the south to collaborate and unite with each other and achieve reunification.

The peaceful reunification of the country is the loftiest love and humanitarianism for the entire fellow countrymen.

We sincerely hope the south Korean believers will look squarely at the present complicated situation at home and abroad and from the north and the south to terminate the prolonged antagonism and confrontation within the fellow countrymen and achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country in the spirit of national unity.

It is true that today there exist differences between the north and the south in ideology and idea, political view and religious belief. But we should think of the desires of the nation before we argue about all the differences and past doings.

We are always ready to join hands with those who value the country and the nation and desire the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, and want to meet with them around one table and discuss the reunification question.

We think if a dialogue is resumed between the north and the south, a political consultative conference represented by broad circles including the political parties and organisations in the north and the south may be convened to reflect the general will of the whole nation and, along with this, talks between the authorities may also be held.

If the door of north-south dialogue and reunification is to be opened, it is necessary for those who are desirous of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country to meet with each other and have a broad exchange of opinions.

From this point of view we hope to meet with you and exchange opinions in an open-hearted and unreserved way.

The earlier our contact, the better and Panmunjom, Pyongyang or Seoul or a third country may be chosen as its venue.

I expect your affirmative reply to our proposal.

Kim Il
Vice-President
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Secretary of the Central Committee Workers' Party of Korea
Chairman
Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland
Pyongyang, January 11, 1980

Mr. Li Hui Song
Chief of the Staff of the Army
Seoul

Brothers of the same ancestry, we have been levelling guns at each other for over 30 years, separated in the north and the south.

Moreover, today when the situation surrounding us is growing complicated with each passing day, if we resign ourselves to the split of the nation forced by the outside forces, our fellow countrymen will inevitably undergo irrevocable national disasters.

It is painful that the fellow countrymen should live, separated from each other. Further, if they fight among themselves with rifles in their hands, there will be no greater national tragedy than this.

We of the same nation should not antagonize and confront ourselves with each other to fight each other. By all means we should eliminate tension and danger of a war between the north and the south and find a way out for the nation by our own efforts.

The genuine road for our nation to follow today is for the north and the south to collaborate, unite and intensify themselves as one nation, not relying upon the outside forces.

Out of this desire we propose to meet directly with you, holding an important post of the army and exchange opinions in an open-hearted way on problems arising in arranging a bilateral and multilateral dialogue between the north and the south and achieving the country's peace and peaceful reunification.

Our contact will be a good occasion in narrowing down differences that may arise and eliminating misunderstanding and mistrust and a fine expression of the common desire for the country's peace and peaceful reunification.

We hope our contact with you will be realised as early as possible and Panmunjom, Pyongyang or Seoul, or a third country may be chosen as its venue.

In the belief that you will fully understand our sincere stand for peaceful reunification, I expect an affirmative reply to our proposal.

Kim Il
Vice-President
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Secretary of the Central Committee Workers' Party of Korea
Chairman
Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland
Pyongyang, January 11, 1980

EDITORIAL

History-Making Proposals

On January 11 DPRK Vice-President Kim Il and Premier Li Jong Ok sent 12 letters to the south Koreans in and out of power, advancing major proposals concerning the reunification of the divided country. The proposals have great implications for the relaxation of tension and the preservation of peace in Asia at a time when the international situation grows extremely complex. The new bid is likely to make a breakthrough in the Korean question in the eighties.

The senders reminded the recipients of the complexity of the circumstances of Korea. In view of that, they stressed the need to ignore the past, unite, cooperate and jointly seek for the workable solutions. As a specific way, Pyongyang suggested talks between the authorities, including those at high levels, in parallel with broader-based political consultative conferences. Regarding their dates, the DPRK said, the sooner, the better, and listed Panmunjom, Pyongyang, Seoul and a third country as candidate sites.

The proposals reflect the strong patriotic resolve to resume the north-south talks as soon as possible and achieve international cooperation and unity in the pan-national drive to become the masters of the Korean destiny. What is realistic about the new proposals is the firm assumption that the Korean people should be responsible for the settlement of the reunification issue. If broader-based political consultative conferences and talks between the authorities are held, the national settlement of the reunification will become feasible in a way agreeable to the will of the whole nation.

The things in Korea are very much complex as a result of the many years of its division. Two different social systems are in place in the northern and the southern halves as they are under differing ideologies, while the two confront each other militarily. This reality calls for the common national identity to be placed above the differing ideologies in an effort to overcome the differences and find common ground. It is also necessary to remove mutual misunderstanding and distrust through contacts. So, an opportunity should be created for the northerners and the southerners to get together to exchange views on the state of the nation.

The messages from Pyongyang to Seoul are completely in that direction. Now, the foreign forces are at work, attempting to exploit the division of Korea as they are openly committed to the "two-Korea" policy. In this context, the continuation of the split is intolerable any longer, and nobody can absolve himself or herself from the reunification issue.

The new proposals incorporates the south Korean insistance on the "talks between the responsible officials." Consequently, it is safe to call the latest Pyongyang proposals a highly reasonable offer acceptable to anyone with patriotism.

The international surroundings of Korea favor its peaceful reunification. The negotiated Korean reunification is crucial to the lasting peace of Asia as it requires the elimination of tension. No force can hold in check this climate favoring peace. The eager attention of the world community is now focussed on the latest peace overtures when the international situation has become complicated.

The United States welcomed the letters from Pyongyang and the world community expects that the north-south talks will be resumed at the earliest date. We remember that new south Korean president Choi Gyu Ha committed himself to work for the peaceful reunification in his December inaugural ceremony.

Therefore, we are confident that if the south Koreans accept the latest Pyongyang proposals with the Korean spirit and engage in resumed north-south talks with a solid national tense of conscience and responsibility, the 35 years of the tragic national division will be brought to a long-awaited end at the earliest date of the eighties.

Confederation: Most Workable Approach

Pyongyang believes that at least a confederation should be instituted to connect the two governments in north and south Korea, pending their eventual complete reunification, as it is a most workable solution of the Korean question. The confederation, Pyongyang theorizes, would remove the real threat of nuclear holocaust from the Korean Peninsula and other parts of Northeast Asia and enable the Korean people to preserve their time-honored cultural identity as a homogeneous nation. A boat-people solution must be avoided.

NATURE OF REUNIFICATION

What is the nature of the reunification process? In theory and practice, Pyongyang opines, it involves a life-and-death struggle between the Korean forces and the foreign forces as it is the effort of the former to restore their sovereignty nation-wide. Pyongyang's perception is never one of the issue as conflict between socialism and capitalism or between socialism and nationalism or as a rivalry between the north and the south.

The very nature of the reunification issue makes imperative for both Pyongyang and Seoul to put aside whatever differences which may exist between the two and unite with their common Korean identity. In other words, they should negotiate and live with the reality in Korea — the presence of two differing policies, socialist and semi-capitalist, which should not and can not become an obstacle to their joint search for unity.

Given this fact, it is quite logical Pyongyang is in no mood to insist that the northerners and the southerners should abandon their institutions, ideologies and faith in favor of those of either and no one of the divisive problems should be brought into the relations between Pyongyang and Seoul which would only play into the hands of the foreign forces. It is taboo for Pyongyang and Seoul to engage in any act which would serve to increase mutual distrust and misunderstanding.

CONCEPT OF CONFEDERATION

It is the long-standing position of President Kim Il Sung that a confederation would satisfy both the supreme need to preserve Korean identity and the issue of the stark reality of the presence of the two different systems. The confederation, though provisional in character, would coordinate the pan-national movement toward the ultimate goal of reunification.

Unlike any confederation past and present in other parts of the world, what Pyongyang proposes is far from a federal government with sovereign powers. In the words of President Kim Il Sung, "The north-south Confederation we proposes involves the formation of a Supreme National Council with representatives of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the 'Government of the Republic of Korea' to solve political, economic, military and cultural problems arising between the north and south and thereby attain national unity, while maintaining the present political systems of the north and south as they are." The Supreme National Council would not possess any of central government powers but simply become a forum for matters of common concern and oblige the two governments to implement the agreed decisions as they are allowed to maintain their sovereign rights and engage in their independent activities.

The proposed confederation would not presuppose any uniform political system or thought but would be based on the separate functionings of the two different polities. This distinguishes the proposed one confederation from those which existed or are now in place in other countries. They were and are virtually permanent in duration, but the proposed would be temporary and transitional. It would disappear with the formation of a unified central government, namely, when a unified Korea would have been established.

The Supreme National Council would be created with an equal number of representatives from both the governments in the north and the south. It would be charged with discussing and adopting appropriate resolutions on the matters of common concern, political, economic, military, cultural and social. It would coordinate the policies of the two governments and in particular in developing jointly the nation's natural resources, upgrading its culture and enable the two to take concerted diplomatic conduct as a single state.

The iron rule for the successful performance of the confederation is for the two governments in the north and the south to refrain from interfering with each other's internal affairs but to faithfully discharge the decisions approved at the Supreme National Council. No attempt to undermine each other's stand would not be tolerated. Otherwise, the confederation would fall apart and the Supreme National Council would be frustrated in its historic job of reconciling the two different systems, improving the climate for national unity and accommodation, restoring mutual trust and confidence, and preparing nation-wide general elections to install a central government.

The name of the proposed confederation would have to be agreeable to both the governments. Neither the DPRK or the ROK should be retained. As President Kim Il Sung proposes, Koryo should be strongly recommended as a potential title for the confederal Korea. Koryo was a unified Korean state which attained high degrees of culture, giving rise to its English name Korea. All the Koreans are duly proud of that cultural heritage.

Which deserves a special mention is the history-tested fact and conviction of President Kim Il Sung and his Government that people of all kinds of ideologies and faiths and systems may live together in any given country and even in a reunified Korea. A major factor is whether national unity is placed above any other things and whether the nation is consideration number one.

WAYS OF INSTALLATION

The formation of a confederal republic must be a result of a national consensus north and south, governmental and civilian, expressed freely in a democratic environment. Then, there must be various forums.

No repressive political and legal obstacles should be eliminated. Democratic order must guide the process of pan-Korean debate on specific ways of achieving a confederation. Nobody should try to monopolize the matter in order to promote the partisan interests.

President Kim Il Sung stated: "To settle fundamental problems for the country's reunification it is necessary to have contacts and negotiations on a wider scale, and in many more fields, to discuss a number of specific measures for removing the long-accumulated misunderstanding and attaining the independent and peaceful reunification. That is why we insist on unconditionally holding political negotiations such as a joint conference of political parties and social organizations in north and south Korea, or a conference of north and south Korean authorities or a joint conference of our Supreme People's Assembly deputies and the south Korean 'national assemblymen.'"

Such forums should be led to produce an all-Korean congress to be attended by representatives of north and south Korean authorities, political parties, public organizations, and individual persons, with those of Korean communities abroad. This congress would be entrusted with the mission of setting up a north-south confederation.

UN MEMBERSHIP, FOREIGN ECONOMIC INTERESTS

In order to prevent the perpetuation of Korean split, Pyongyang remains committed to Korean membership of the United Nations as a single state, that is, at least as a confederal republic. Until then, Pyongyang opposes either part of the Korean Peninsula being admitted into the world organization as a full member which would carry the risk of destroying all the possibilities of reunification for ever.

Once a confederation is set up, Korea would be able to station single embassies abroad and to take joint defense policy. Troop reductions and arms control would become feasible between the north and the south. There would be no need for foreign troops to be garrisoned in south Korea.

The confederal republic would follow the policy of non-alignment in foreign affairs and reject any intervention from abroad. Then, the Korean Peninsula would emerge a peace zone, greatly contributing to the peace and security of Northeast Asia and world peace.

While joint cultural and sports missions would be sent abroad, there would be free exchanges of newsmen, letters and correspondence. Journalists would be allowed to freely cover in any part of Korea and set up offices in Pyongyang and Seoul. The same would be true of the activities of political parties and public organizations.

A big question is whether foreign concerns would be allowed to continue their operations in south Korea as they are now. The answer is yes. It must be so in view of the nature of the confederation.

Stronger Demand of S. Koreans for Reunification

Hopes for north-south territorial reintegration were revived and reinforced among the south Korean people as their long-sustained top concern. A biggest contributing factor was the flexible readiness of Pyongyang for negotiation on a peaceful reunification.

Aspiring after the independent, peaceful reunification of the country, the DPRK sincerely sent letters to the Seoul authorities and personages of the political parties and public organizations on January 11 when the trend for the reunification is increasing as never before. The letters are enjoying full support and sympathy of the south Korean people in all walks of life.

The south Korean people make increased efforts to promote the independent, peaceful reunification of their country, inspired by the flexible stance by the Pyongyang side.

When the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for Reunification of the Fatherland came out with a four-point proposal on Jan. 23, 1979, inviting the south Korean authorities, opposition parties, public organizations, individual persons and overseas Koreans to attend a pan-national congress, almost all south Korean legislators favored north-south talks. According to south Korean daily Tong-A Ilbo dated Feb. 21, 1979, 90.4 per cent of the south Korean national assemblymen expressed their support for north-south talks for reunification.

Speaking at a news conference, Ryang Il Dong, the president of the Democratic Unification Party, said on June 8, 1976 that the north-south dialogue should be resumed at the earliest possible date by the Korean people themselves.

The opposition New Democratic Party president Kim Yong Sam on June 11, 1979, said in his speech that he was ready to meet with President Kim Il Sung and other responsible officials of the DPRK in the scope of amendance at the north-south talks by barring civilians from participation. The union in its statement called for public representation in any reunification talks, on the ground that their representation was aimed not at increasing hatred and disputes within the same nation but at achieving exchanges and unification, and peace on the Korean Peninsula, and at world peace.

another flexible proposal in the Nov. 19, 1979 Rodong Sinmun editorial, ex-"president" Yun Po Son, the dissident leader, said in his interview with Newsweek, "We should, in fact, begin with no-strings contacts with the north to promote some exchanges initially in the sports and culture fields." (Newsweek, Nov. 26, 1979).

On Nov. 9, 1979, Kim Yong Sam was interviewed by Helmut Rack, a Far East correspondent of the DRS Radio in Bern and said that it was quite possible to have a talk with the north if the present regime changed its policy toward Pyongyang.

"In my opinion, a dialogue between north and south should be promoted in a democratic way, and I think our representatives (Seoul side) to such a talk should be composed of democratic leaders," said Kim Yong Sam, and went on: "It is a good thing to have a talk with the north. Because both of us are the same Koreans. The purposes of the talk can be varied. Talks on finding the whereabouts of separated families or on the exchange of reporters and scholars are possible. And even talks on the exchange of correspondence would serve to clear the air on the Korean Peninsula."

In the past, demands of the south Korean dissidents, students and democratic personalities for north-south contact and reunification have been made in their declarations and statements.

With the resumption of the long-suspended north-south contact, the National Union for Democracy and National Reunification was formed on Mar. 4 last as the umbrella body of 13 organizations.

This coming on the scene represented a unanimous commitment of the people in all walks of life to the earliest reintegration of the divided peninsula. The union defied the Pak junta who limited the scope of amendance at the north-south talks by barring civilians from participation. The union in its statement called for public representation in any reunification talks, on the ground that their representation was aimed not at increasing hatred and disputes within

"Korea must be reunified as a result of the exploitation by the Korean people of these resources, come what may. In short, we the Korean people must become a decisive motive force in the reunification process, the only way that will enable us to become real masters of a reunified Korea.

Seoul University students issued on September 13, 1978 a declaration. The declaration stressed that firstly, reunification is the greatest task of our national history. The 5,000-year national history of hardships and the national spirit which was alive in our veins made reunification an absolute necessity and an absolute ultimate aim. Naturally, therefore, reunification should not be any ideology, nor should it be any means of perpetuating the regime. But it should be the end itself and be attained voluntarily and peacefully with the people's will to reunification democratically crystallized, not unilaterally through armed power.

Rev. Ham Sok Hon, a Quaker leader in south Korea, contributed an article to the June 1978 issue of "The Voice of the People."

"Under whatsoever circumstances, it is the overriding job of our nation to achieve national reunification. Divided, our nation will perish."

The National Coalition for Democracy, July 10, 1978, issued the "Declaration for Democratic Nation":

"The reunification issue should be settled in a spirit of sincere rapprochement. Approach to the national desire of reunification should be initiated by the masses. We affirm once again the truth that only democracy can pave the way for the settlement of the reunification issue, enabling the masses to participate in and give their own ideas about it. Our struggle against the dictatorship and for democracy represents the national will to bring about reunification."

2-4 Yr. Raps Proposed for 17 Dissidents

Seventeen south Korean political dissidents, including former "president" Yun Po Son and Rev. Ham Sok Hon, were suggested 2-4 year imprisonment for staging anti-"government" demonstrations last November at a martial law court which was held on Jan. 15 and 16 in Seoul.

Although Choe Kyu Ha lifted last December a four-year-old emergency "presidential decree" clamped by assassinated Pak Jung Hi to ban dissension, the dissidents face penalties of up to three years in jail if found guilty of breaching a martial law ordinance prohibiting anti-"government" activities.

Martial law authorities of the Seoul garrison command accused the 82-year-old anti-"government" fighter and dissident publisher Yun Po Son, 78, of encouraging and providing funds for a public meeting, attended by about four hundred people, to denounce last December's "presidential election."

The dissidents were also accused of arranging the distribution of leaflets urging the south Koreans to stage anti-"government" demonstrations throughout the country simultaneously.

The 17 accused took part in a meeting which was held on Nov. 24 at the Young Women's Christian Association(YWCA) in order to frustrate an attempt to elect "president" by the "national conference for unification."

The November 24 meeting issued a statement demanding the complete repeal of "yusin constitution," immediate institution of democratic constitution, severe punishment of "yusin remnants" and objection to foreign aid to "yusin remnants." Over 140 of 1,000 attendants were arrested and put to barbarous tortures, 17 of whom were proposed 2-4 year imprisonment at the Seoul martial law court.

S. Korean Won Devaluated By 19.8%

On January 12, the South Koreans carried out a 19.8 percent devaluation of the won which has been pegged down at 484 won to the U.S. dollar for the last five years. Along with this, they also announced the increase in the bank interest rate for one-year time deposits from 18.6 percent to 24.0 percent, and for ordinary loans from 18.5 percent to 24.5 percent.

According to the south Korean authorities, this measure is first of all aimed at improving south Korea's balance of international payments.

The south Korean authorities consider that through this measure, this year's exports will be increased by 300 million dollars and imports will be held down by 300 million dollars. A total of 600 million dollars is to be saved in the balance of international payments. It is speculated that next year the balance of international payments will be improved by 1,060 million dollars. They calculate that this year's trade deficit will decrease from 6.1 billion (estimate) dollars to 5.5 billion dollars and the deficit in the ordinary revenues and expenditures will decrease from 5.3 billion dollars (estimate) to 4.7 billion dollars.

Secondly, the measure is aimed at reactivating exports and thirdly, at restraining inflation and securing fund sources by absorbing capital which would otherwise flow to private loans and speculation in land. Thus, the south Korean authorities plan to achieve a GNP growth of 3 percent this year.

The opposition New Democratic Party denounced the authorities in a statement, which said in effect that the recent devaluation of the won and the increased rates of interest have added difficulties to the living of the people who are already suffering from stagflation, and are threatening the people's living and accelerating the economic crisis.

"There will be the problem of instability in the people's living because of price increases and in the wake of bankruptcies due to the increased financial burden on enterprises," says the "Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry."

"The recent measure increases the rates of interest on private loans and adds more pressure to the management of middle and minor enterprises," echoes the "Korea Federation of Small Business."

"To protect workers against sharp price increases, the levels of real wages must be raised. Wage problems should be left to management and workers concerned, and the government should not interfere in labour affairs," declares the "ROK" General Council of Trade Unions.

Economic Crunch in S. Korea

The south Korean economy is now undergoing the worst crisis. All domains of the economy have been drawn into a whirlpool of bankruptcies, swept by a depression wave.

The catastrophic crisis of the economy is fully reflected above all in the steady drop in industrial production.

Even according to doctored figures released by the south Korean authorities, last year, the industrial production decreased 2.6 per cent in April as against March and 2 percent again in May compared with April. In June it dropped again by 4.2 per cent from May.

Enterprises are closing down one after another in those branches dependent upon foreign countries for raw and other materials.

Along with the production decline, the country's economic management is growing worse and the operation rate is going down.

The number of enterprises which became insolvent by dishonouring their bills in Seoul reportedly increased from the monthly average of 45 in the first quarter of last year to 94 in October and 99 in November.

As of December 14 last year 800 or more enterprises had gone bankrupt or were on the verge of bankruptcy in Seoul because of dishonoured bills.

Minor enterprises representing the national industry of south Korea are facing total bankruptcy. About 1,697 of them had suspended operation or gone bankrupt and 8,198 sharply curtailed operation by the end of July last.

Things have got worse since then. According to a survey of some minor enterprises as of August 20, which was made public by the Seoul authorities, 3,760 of them had become insolvent. If this rate is applied to all the minor enterprises, the actual number of bankrupt enterprises will add up to an alarming figure.

The average operation rate of 60 machine building enterprises in the Changwon industrial zone, vaunted by the Seoul authorities as a symbol of the south Korean machine-building industry, dropped by 30% in September.

In April the Yulsan enterprise became insolvent with liabilities of 160,000 million won and the next month, the Wonjin Group ended up in a bankruptcy with liabilities of 40,000 million won. Also listed as insolvent were a large number of corporate companies to which the Seoul authorities had granted all sorts of privileges, claiming them as first-rate and promising enterprises.

The bancruptcies of enterprises has resulted in a sharp increase in unemployment. Over 110,000 men joined the army of completely unemployed in south Korea in the first half of last year.

The bankruptcies of enterprises renders jobless not only workers, but also dealt a heavy blow at petty traders and handicraftsmen directly related to them.

The rapid bankruptcy of the rural economy also accelerates unemployment. In 1978 alone, more than 780,000 peasants quit their villages to find livelihoods in urban areas.

Graduates from colleges and universities are also finding it very difficult to get jobs.

Thus, the economic chaos of south Korea is constantly increasing the already arge army of 2.7 million unemployed and 4.5 million half-employed. This means that 45 per cent of the able-bodies people are unemployed.

The economic crisis is being further aggravated by a decrease in export and a sharp advance in trade deficit.

Data published by the Seoul authorities show that south Korean exports in the first half of last year dwindled by 3.1 per cent in monetary terms as compared with the same period in 1978.

On the other hand, imports sharply increased.

South Korea's trade deficit last year reached over 5,000 million dollars.

In the first nine months of last year its trade deficit amounted to 4,070 million dollars. This is an all time high, three times the figure in the same period of 1978.

In south Korea which depends on onesided and lopsided colonial processing export trade, an increase in import necessarily affects production and employment conditions.

This is borne out by the fact that as of the end of July, south Korea's industrial production dipped more than 12 per cent compared with March and again dropped 2.5 per cent in August, whereas the stockpiling of goods at the end of September showed 42.4 per cent increment over 1977 .

In June last alone, the production of textiles and clothes, south Korea's chief exports, decreased 6.7 per cent and that of plywood and other wooden products went down 14.9 per cent.

The Yulsan, Wonjin, Kia and other comprador enterprises, which had been expanding equipment investments, as the most promising enterprises until some time ago, cut production about 70 per cent in early July last compared with March last due to the steadily increased stockpiles of their products, and they had to totally suspend operation at the end of July last.

Heavy Dependence on Foreign Countries

The economic crisis of south Korea is a product of the Seoul authorities' policy of economic dependence and subordination.

Today the south Korean economy is dependent upon foreign countries notably the United States and Japan for most of its raw materials, equipment and even consumer goods.

Faced with serious money shortage, Seoul is busy inducting foreign loans and foreign investments.

The state-operated "Korean Development Bank" July 5 signed a 600-million-dollar syndicated Eurodollar credit with a group of 59 foreign banks from the U.S., Europe and Japan. The loan was doubled from the initial target to become the largest commercial bank loan ever taken out by a developing Asian country. As a result, south Korea's foreign commercial borrowings so far last year amounted to almost 1.2 billion dollars. In addition, over 800 million Korean billion dollars is under negotiation.

Last year, south Korea's total foreign borrowings, both public and commercial, reached over 5 billion dollars. According to World Bank figures, the total loan induction of about 4.5 billion dollars a year in the next three years would raise south Korea's debt service ratio from the 10.7 per cent to 12-13 per cent in the early 1980's.

The Seoul authorities decided to expand the areas open to infiltration by foreign capitalists to all its economic domains, including distribution, not to speak of production, while broadening the scope of countries allowed to make direct investments in south Korea.

The United States accounts for 28 per cent, Japan 21 per cent and member nations of the European Community 21.5 per cent of the total amount of foreign capital inducted into south Korea. International financial establishments supplied 16.5 per cent of the foreign capital and other countries only 13 per cent.

South Korea's export itself is dependent on foreign capital.

In 1974, foreign enterprises accounted for 25.1 per cent of the total exports of south Korea. The share rose to 70 per cent in 1979.

The dollar crisis and the oil crisis of the capitalist world are accelerating the bankruptcy of south Korean industry. Restrictions on import enforced in the United States, Japan and other capitalist countries for the defence of the dollar and for its protection of domestic industry has made 26 export-oriented textile enterprises of south Korea suspend production or close down and brought 11 enterprises to bankruptcy. And more than 500 minor enterprises which were reduced to sub-contractors for comprador enterprises have gone under water or on the point of bankruptcy owing to the depressed export.

The drastic hike of the oil price by the south Korean authorities on July 1st set the order of U.S. oil monopolies has dealt a heavy blow at the south Korean economy wholly dependent upon foreign countries.

Thus, the south Korean economy is rightly bound to foreign capital, U.S. and Japanese monopoly capital in particular.

The Seoul authorities have no right to made economic and financial decisions. All the important steps, particularly the "development plans" worked out by the south Korean "state organs" must get prior approval by the representatives of the U.S. administration and recognition by the Japanese authorities.

Seoul is under pressure from Washington to spend more on defence and the authorities announced a 37.6 per cent increase in its military spending in FY 1980.

The munition industry of south Korea consists of the U.S.-Japan-south Korea complexes which are being integrated day by day, and the reinforcement of the military potential of the industry in south Korea is nothing but an aspect of an overall military strengthening of the Tokyo-Washington axis.

The U.S. military aid reached 6,847 million dollars and the economic aid 4,422 million dollars—11,200 million dollars, all told—from 1945 to 1976.

This has resulted in the militarization of the economy to meet indirectly the strategic demand of the United States.

A genuine economic independence is indispensable for the restoration of the economic right of the south Korean people.

Brief News From S. Korean Dailies

Food Self-Supply Rate 98.7%

The country domestically produced only 58.7% of the foods locally consumed in 1979, said Li Je Ho, minister of agriculture and fisheries in an interview with a correspondent of our paper.

(The Hanguk Ilbo, January 8, 1980)

30% of Farming Households Tenants

The tenant system is legally forbidden in our country, but 43.8% of the farming households rent their lands for tenants or cultivate the rented lands, and the rents are 45.9% of the harvests, it was learned.

According to a survey of the Korean Agricultural Institute released on January 5, owner-farmers occupy 56.1% of the farm households nationwide, tenants represent 30.6% and the farmers whose lands are partially rented to others are 13.2%. The survey is "The Present Status of the Farms Rented."

The landlords get a 50% share in the harvests as rents (71.2%), a one-third share (17.7%) and a two-fifth share (11.1%): the average rents are 45.9% (46.9% in case of rice paddies and 43.9% in non-paddy fields).

The average farmland per family is 1.7 chongbo. Tenants own the average of 1.2 chongbo and rent 0.5 chongbo, those who rent their lands to sharecroppers own 2.3 chongbo, of which 0.6 chongbo is leased.

(The Chosen Ilbo, January 6, 1980.)

Rice Purchase 82% of Target

The purchase by the authorities of rice in 1979 stood at 8,975,414 straw bags, or 82% of the target of 11 million straw bags, it was learned on January 4.

According to the ministry of agriculture and fisheries, the government planned to buy a total of 11 million straw bags of rice at a cost of 163 billion won in an attempt to extend price support to the farmers.

The final figures for last year is supposed to reach 9.1 million straw bags, down 1.9 million straw bags from the original target.

The figures for 1977 and 78 were respectively 9,742,000 straw bags and 9,413,000 straw bags.

(The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun, January 3, 1980)

Liver Troubles More Widespread in Rural Areas Than Urban Areas

The liver cancer and hepatitis attack the rural people more frequently than the urban dwellers, and they are conspicuously widespread in the Honam districts, and they are orally communicated, more often than ways so fat known, drawing extraordinary attention from the medical circles.

This was brought to light in a medical check of 3,053 residents of Ilwon, North Cholla Province, Kyonggi Province and Seoul on three occasions from September, 1978 to October, 1979, conducted by a team headed by Dr. Cho Sok Sim and Dr. Li Chang Gyu of the Atomic Hospital.

Hepatitis virus was detected in 4.5% of the 689 persons checked in Seoul, 13.8% of the 1,353 persons in Kyonggi Province, 8.4% of the 1,011 persons in North Cholla Province. They compare with 0.1% in Western Europe and the United States and 15.1% in Southeast Asian countries.

By sex, these figures break down as follows: 5.1% of the males and 3.16% of the females in Seoul, 3.4% of the male and 2.38% of the females in Kyonggi Province, and 8.2% of the males and 10.0% of the females in North Cholla Province.

By age, they are: 7.48% of those from 20-29 in Kyonggi Province, 8.94% of the same age group in Seoul, and 10.47% of those from 40-49 in North Cholla Province.

(The Chosen Ilbo, January 10, 1980)

Japanese Companies Run Away from Masan, Failing to Pay Wages And Bank Debts

Some Japanese companies fled from the Masan Export Free Zone, failing to pay wages for their workers and settle the bank debts, leaving the workers in the lurch.

The Korea Electronic Cabinet (President Wanabe Ichizo) with 281 employees was closed between September and November, but the workers were not given wages for the three months, amounting to a total of 64 million won. The Japanese executives all returned to Japan in June last, mailing notes of their resignation to Masan, not to come back.

The company's assets are estimated at a mere 490 million won, whereas it accumulated a total of 1.8 billion won.

At present, a total of 85 Japanese companies are in operation in the Masan Export Free Zone, of them the Hangook Samsong Electric failed to pay 3.7 million won wages for September and October to 28 employees, the Hanguk Tokyo PAC Company failed to pay 45 million won of discharge allowances for its 235 employees, and other two companies failed to pay a total of 2.2 million won.

Since its commissioning in March, 1971, a total of 24 companies were shut down. Last year, six closed their business and five suspended their operations.

Currently, a total of 30,000 Koreans are employed in the Masan Export Free Zone.

(The Chosen Ilbo, January 10, 1980)

Physically-Handicapped Persons Total One Million

In our country, physically-handicapped and mentally-retarded persons total 1,086,823, 2.9% of the population, of which females are 297,756, it was revealed.

This disclosure was made in findings of a survey by the Korea Economic Development Institute of a total of 344,902 persons nation-wide from employment 20 to end of November last at the request of the ministry of health and social affairs.

According to the just-released survey, the intellectually-handicapped account for 51.7%, or 561,574, the mentally-deranged 15.52%, or 164,584, aphasiacs 11.9%, or 129,636, the persons with a hearing difficulty 11.3%, or 123,216, and those with a color sensation paralysis 9.9%, or 107,733.

(The Chosen Ilbo, January 10, 1980)

Chronology

Follows a chronology of overtures for north-south Korea negociation to facilitate the independent, peaceful reunification of the nation made public by President Kim Il Sung and his Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea since the liberation of Korea from 36 years of the yoke of the Japanese colonial rule, August 15, 1945:

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Apr. 30, 1948:

A joint conference of various political parties and social organizations of north and south Korea was held in Pyongyang. The conference unanimously proposed to make all foreign troops withdraw simultaneously from Korea and to realize the country's reunification by way of establishing a united government through free, general elections throughout Korea.

June 25, 1949:

72 political parties and social organizations of north and south Korea formed a Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland with a view to jointly promoting the cause of national reunification.

June 19, 1950:

The Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) of the DPRK put forward a proposal on realizing the peaceful reunification of the country by way of merging the SPA and the "national assembly" of south Korea as a single all-Korea legislative organ.

Apr. 28, 1956:

The Third Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea(WPK) proposed to set up a permanent committee, composed of representatives of government authorities and supreme legislative bodies or political parties and social organizations of north and south Korea, with a mission to discuss all problems ranging from removing the barriers which block the political, economic and cltural ties, interchange of materials, travel of people and exchange of correspondence between the north and the south and facilitating mutual contacts to north-south reunification and to take practical measures for them.

Apr. 19, 1960:

The Syngman Rhee "government" was overthrown by the mass uprising of the south Korean people.

Nov. 22, 1960:

The 8th Session of the SPA of the DPRK advanced a detailed recommendation on realizing economic and cultural exchange and cooperation between north and the south and facilitating the independent development of national economy in south Korea.

June, 1962:

The Eleventh Session of the Second SPA proposed to the south Korean authorities to meet with them in Panmujom, Pyongyang or Seoul to negotiate about conclusion of a peace agreement between the north and south and reduction of armed forces in the north and the south.

Mar., 1964:

The Third Session of the SPA proposed to achieve national unity and cooperation by convening a joint conference of political parties and social organizations of north and south Korea, or through contacts and exchange of views between the representatives of all strata in north and south Korea.

Apr. 12, 1971:

The DPRK Government advanced an eight-point proposal for national reunification at the Fifth Session of the Fourth SPA.

Aug. 6, 1971:

President Kim Il Sung said that the DPRK is ready to come in touch at any time with all political parties including the Democratic Republican Party social organizations and individual personages in south Korea.

Spt. 20, 1971:

The preliminary talks between the north and south Red Cross organizations started in Panmunjom.

July 4, 1972:

A north-south joint statement with three principles of national reunification set forth by the DPRK side as its main content was made public.

June 23, 1973:

President Kim Il Sung put forth a new five-point proposal for natinal reunification with an ardent desire to overcome the difficulty lying on the way to reunification and realize the reunification of the country.

He proposed to institute the Confederal Republic of Koryo.

Jan. 25, 1977:

Political parties and social organizations of the DPRK sent letters to political parties, public organizations and people of all strata in south Korea and compatriots overseas, proposing a wide-range north-south political consultative conference for reunion of the country.

Sep. 9, 1978:

President Kim Il Sung delivered a report at the grand commemoration of 30th anniversary of foundation of the WPK: The Government of the Republic is making every sincere effort to bring about a dialogue for the peaceful settlement of the reunification question and keeps an open door for dialogue at all times. We leave the door open for a conversation with the U.S. and with the south Korean authorities and political parties, too.

Jan. 23, 1979:

The Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland (DFRF) made a four-point proposal for the reunification of Korea, inviting the south Korean authorities, opposition parties, public organizations, individual persons and overseas Koreans to attend an all-Korea congress to be held in Pyongyang or Seoul early in September.

Feb. 5, 1979:

The Secretariat of the CC of the DFRF issued a statement proposing the formaion of a preparatory committee to replace the north-south coordination commission.

Feb. 17, 1979:

A contact was made between the liaison representatives of north and south Korea to make the arrangement for the formation of a preparatory committee for national reunification in Panmunjom.

Mar. 14, 1979:

The third contact between the liaison representatives of north and south Korea for the formaion of the preparatory committee was held in Panmunjom.

Oct. 16, 1979:

Over 10,000 students and people in Pusan and more than 3,000 demonstrators in Masan stoned police boxes, destroyed police vehicles and raided newspaper offices against the dictatorial rule of the Pak junta.

Oct. 26, 1979:

Dictator Pak Jung Hi was shot to death by "KCIA" director Kim Jae Gyu.

Jan. 11, 1980:

The WPK and the Government of the DPRK sent letters containing proposals for the reunification question signed by Vice-President Kim Il and Premier Li Jong Ok to the authorities and personages of different political parties and organizations of south Korea.

Violence Cannot Hold in Check People's Aspirations For Democracy

The south Korean ruling circles are still resorting to the repressive methods of suppressing the south Korean people demanding early democratization of the society, and are set on maintaining the "yusin" system the slain dictator established to ensure his one-man rule.

On November 24, last year, the martial law authorities arrested 140 people who attended an anti-"government" rally held in Myongdong, Seoul and severely put them to tortures.

In addition, the south Korean authorities prosecuted 18 democrats including former "president" Yun Bo Son and spiritual leader Rev. Ham Sok Hon and some other leaders of social organizations on trumped-up charges and on Jan. 15 held a kangaroo court.

These moves of the south Korean ruling quarters run counter to the keen desire of the south Korean mass-roots for complete abolition of the "yusin" system and for early restoration of democracy to south Korea and indicate that the nature of the ruling groups remains unchanged.

Since the south Koreans have been forced to live under the dictatorial rule of violence, they eagerly demand complete abolition of the "yusin" system and establishment of a new democratic government.

Even violence used by the south Korean authorities cannot hold in check the aspirations of the people.

The people's growing aspirations for democracy were demonstrated on Nov. 24 when some 1,000 people in all walks of life including democratic personalities, students and other young people held a national meeting to smash a presidential election by the "National Conference for Unification" (NCU), a rubber-stamp body set up by the slain dictator, in defiance of a martial law and released a statement and declaration.

In the statement and declaration, they bitterly criticized the remnants of the "yusin" system who are making desperate efforts to maintain the system and demanded its complete abolition and all the related institutions and called for severe punishment of anti-people, corrupt privileged leaders.

They also demanded democratic reforms by a democratic coalition government.

They categorically rejected any interference by outside forces in the domestic affairs and called upon all the patriotic citizens to rise up in a decisive struggle to put an end to the "yusin" system.

The full texts of a Prospectus, the National Declaration against a Presidential Election by the NCU and the Statement for Establishing a Democratic Coalition Government published by the participants in the national meeting, follow:

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Prospectus

We are now faced with an important phase in the history of our nation. The corrupt Korean authorities who have assumed power for 18 years, are trying to mislead the nation with a shallow, desire and wild fancies without knowing the full significance of the bloody events that erupted in Pusan and Masan and of the warnings of the Y.H. Trading Company's workers and what the end of the dictator has taught for the nation. The shameless political plan, to "elect the president first, then amend the constitution", declared by acting president Choi Gyu Ha on November 10, clearly showed the authorities' traitorous attitude to the people. They are trying to turn down the demand of the people. The plan undoubtedly intended to continue the present constitution, taking advantage of the earnest demand of the people for security and order.

It is time for the authorities to throw away such a plan.

We can neither pave the way for a new era together with the corrupt authorities nor can we allow the *yusin* constitution to continue.

We once again raise our voices of protest. Let us smash the last link in the chain of the dead dictator!

Chairman of the Meeting:
Ham Sok Hon
Chairmen of the Preparation Committee:
Kim Byong Gol, Kim Sung Hun, Pak Jong Tae, Park Ki Wan, Yang Sun Jik, Rim Chae Jong
Members of the Executive Committee:
9 discharged professors; 18 religionists; 9 members of the society for the constitution; 12 writers; 3 members of the Hanguk Christian Students; 3 members of the Council of Democratic Students for Human Rights (names of members are omitted)
The National Meeting against a Presidential Election by the NCU

National Declaration against Presidential Election by NCU

After the incidents of Pusan and Masan, and the Oct. 26 Pak assassination, the eager desire of the people throughout the country for democracy is getting increasingly strong. Today, we gathered here at an important turning point in the history of our nation with a bright prospect for a lasting victory in our struggles for the restoration of democracy against the 18-year dictatorial regime. We have gathered here to arouse all the people in the struggle to win democratic human rights and frustrate the plot of the *yusin* regime remnants to continue the *yusin* constitution, under a fraudulent political plan to "elect the president first, then amend the constitution."

Those people who once followed the dictator, are committing all acts of betrayal to continue the *yusin* constitution, unmindful that the only thing that they can do, is to follow the trends of the times, expiate their past and resign from power.

What does a presidential election through the National Conference for Unification mean, when it is a bastard of the *yusin* constitution? It is obvious that after the Kim Jong Pil-Choi Gyu Ha regime was born of the NCU, taking over the *yusin* constitution, the *yusin* remnants are planning to amend the constitution in a fraudulent way and carry out a general election at a time most favorable for them to regain power (in short, as late as possible). For this, they are oppressing the people's urgent demand for democracy and exerting the dead dictator's evil influence upon the whole of the country.

Newly elected acting president Choi Gyu Ha is known for his heading role in settling the events of Pusan and Masan according to the late president's instructions. He said on the day just before the Oct. 26 assassination that the *yusin* constitution was the only mean of maintaining the *yusin* authorities. It is an open secret that Choi Gyu Ha is one of the central figures of the *yusin* constitution.

He declared that if he was given absolute authority as the *yusin* president, he would liquidate the *yusin* constitution and would establish a new democratic constitution in 5 years, adding that he would sincerely work for a general election, maintaining a fair and strictly neutral stand.

Who can believe him?

In short, the Kim-Choi regime's political plan is neither to establish a democratic constitution nor to achieve security, unity or order in the country as he said. World history proves that the longer a transitional period is, the more serious will be political, economic and social confusion and splits in a people. A presidential election through the NCU is an anti-democratic, anti-national and anti-state act of seeking to continue corrupt rule by the privileged.

We should straightforwardly face the reality that a coming presidential election by the NCU will be a national crisis which will determine whether our country will develop towards democracy or it will again be turn into a *yusin* dictatorship. At an important historical moment, if we look at our history with an easy-going attitude or illusions, we will commit an irrevocable mistake in the nation's history. It is our duty to frustrate a presidential election through the NCU, with the united force of the people throughout the country.

We warn the authorities that if the Kim-Choi regime insists on this ruinous political plan and plans to carry out a presidential election through the NCU, we will frustrate their plan against the demand of history, and will liquidate the *yusin* remnants through a nation-wide democratic struggle.

DETERMINATION

I. We fully support the Nov. 12 declaration of the National Union for Democracy and National Unification which was adopted to indicate a course for the country to avoid confusion. And we welcome a democratic coalition government which will include all democratic forces throughout the country.

II. We demand the Kim-Choi regime take the following steps for national reconciliation and unity.

1) To repeal the plan for a presidential election by the NCU

2) To recognize that the *yusin* system has destroyed democratic constitutions and runs counter to a correct development of the history of the nation.

3) To solve the *Yojonghoe*, the Democratic Republican Party, and the National Conference for Unification and to demand an official decision on their punishment.

III. To attain our objective, we set aside a period from now to November 30 as the first phase of our struggle for democracy. We declare to hold meetings against an NCU presidential election in main cities throughout the country, including Kwanghwa-mun Street of Seoul at 6 p.m. on November 28, 29 and 30 to show our will not to permit a presidential election through the NCU.

Withdraw the *yusin* remnants from their present posts!

We strongly oppose an NCU presidential election!

Let us establish a democratic coalition government!

November 24, 1979

The National Meeting against a Presidential Election by the NCU

Chairman of the Meeting:
Ham Sok Hon
Chairmen of the Preparation Committee: Kim Byong Gol, Kim Sung Hun, Pak Jong Tae, Park Ki Wan, Yang Sun Jik, Rim Chae Jong

Statement for Establishing Democratic Coalition Government

At long last, the arduous struggles of the people from all walks of life waged for many years against the dictatorship resulted in large popular riots in all areas of Pusan and Masan.

As a result, the dictator was punished and now the aspirations of the people after democracy, a complete end of the *yusin* system and after early establishment of a democratic, constitutional government are growing stronger and never before. Responding to the people's aspirations, we stress the need for early formation of a democratic coalition government in order to avoid unnecessary disorder and start constitutional government. For the purpose of accomplishing this task, we state our views as follows.

I. A grand national alliance must be begun with the complete abolition of the yusin system. It is absolutely necessary in this new era for democracy for a grand national alliance to abolish immediately and once and for all the *yusin* system, the root cause of the grievances, grudge and hatred of the people of the south Korean society, along with the funeral of the dictator. For this reason, the so-called National Conference for Unification (NCU) and *Yojonghoe* must dissolve itself of its own accord right now. Kim Jong Pil and Choi Gyu Ha must publicly admit that the *yusin* system was a historical crime, oppressing the people, killing democracy and preventing our national history from developing correctly. They also must dissolve the Democratic Republican Party voluntarily, which has propped the *yusin* system, and await the judgement of history and people, keeping low profile.

And all the remnants of the *yusin* system who have enjoyed privileged posts in the upper social circles—political, official, business and the press, must confess their crimes to the nation sincerely, step down from their posts and await the people's decision on their punishment.

2. To elect a yusin president once again by the NCU is an overt challenge to democracy and a treacherous act against the national history, an act to fool the people.

Political schedules set forth by the Kim Jong Pil-Choi Gyu Ha system, whose key point is a *yusin* presidential election first, to be followed by the revision of the constitution, are nothing but a trick to prolong the *yusin* dictatorial system by taking advantage of the simple desire of the people for order and stability, a trick to deceive the people and to gain time to strengthen their dictatorial forces. The statutory period required for the revision of the constitution is only 21 days. The so-called political schedules such as the revision of the constitution, a general election and the establishment of a democratic government could be completed in several months. Why is it necessary to elect a *yusin* president once again and continue the *yusin* system five more years after the election of the *yusin* president? Though the *yusin* remnants are harping on "national consensus", who in the world has ever agreed to a plot to continue such a shameless dictatorship?

3. The anti-people, corrupt, privileged elements must receive a stern judgement.

We want no retaliation. But here it is necessary for us to make a clear distinction between "retaliation politics" and legal judgement by the people of the criminal records of anti-people, anti-history elements. Without punishing such elements, history cannot advance in a right way. "Generosity" may be applied to those who cooperated with the *yusin* system against their will, but who now deeply reflect on their past conduct. But the corrupt privileged elements who played key roles in maintaining the *yusin* system and who even now don't regret their acts such as Kim Jong Pil, Li Hu Rak, Park Tu Jin, Kim Sung Jin, Kim Chi Yol, Ka Ja Chun, Li Chol Sung and so on must receive severe punishment. Those who actually served the *yusin* system in the upper social circles such as Son U Hie (editor-in-chief of Choson Ilbo), Li Dong Uk (president of Tong-a Ilbo), Chong Ju Yong (chairman of the Federation of Korea Industries), Han Tae Yong (drafter of the *yusin* constitution), Kim Yong Tae (chairman of the Federation of Korea Trade Unions), by oppressing the people, must be duly treated. The martial law authorities which now exercise police powers in this country have the historical mission to punish the corrupt privileged elements and the remnants of the *yusin* system. We demand the military keep a neutral position in politics. However, if the military, in the name of "neutrality", turns their backs to the aspirations of the people, permitting the *yusin* remnants to remain unpunished, it will inevitably become a public criticism that the military after all take sides with the *yusin* remnants and that "neutrality in politics" is nothing but an excuse. At the moment, the neutrality of the military means that the military should not stand in the way of the people who demand the punishment of corrupt privileged elements, and that the military should stand on the side of the people and democracy, in order to live up to the aspirations of the people. This is the only way for the patriotic military officers to leave glorious footprints in our country on the way to democratic development.

4. A democratic national government must be established in a transition period pending establishment of a new democratic government.

Democratic developments on the basis of stability, unity and order must be achieved only by a democratic national government in which the opinions of the people of broad strata will be reflected, and not by the *yusin* remnants who insisted that "*yusin* is the only way to live!" till the day before yesterday. A "democratic coalition government" must be led by a unified body composed of figures representing the broad masses of people. A "democratic coalition government" must guarantee all the basic rights of the people, freedom of the press, assembly, demonstration and association and ensure the rights to existence and the political freedom of workers and peasants. It must promote active participation of the people from all walks of life in the establishment of a democratic government. Thus, the mission of democratic coalition government is to frame a democratic constitution as early as possible on the basis of the "consent of the people" and to set up a democratic government through a fair and free general election. We call upon the patriotic military officers and public officials to categorically reject the plot to prolong *yusin* dictatorial system and to firmly support and defend the idea of establishing a democratic coalition government.

5. We unconditionally reject any interference by outside forces in the efforts to promote the democratization of the society. No foreign countries or foreigners know better than we about how and in what ways the democratization of our country should be carried out and what process it should follow. We, as people of an independent country, have the will and ability to carry out democratic reforms without our reliance upon any other persons. All the outside forces had better be careful about such words and deeds which would give an impression that they support or help the *yusin* remnants.

We appeal to citizens from all walks of life who want democracy. The final decision for democracy is calling us. If we look out a presidential election by the NCU with folded arms and permit the *yusin* remnants to continue a dictatorial regime, victory will not be in our hands. Let's rise up in a struggle throughout the country to smash the plot of a presidential election by the NCU, and sweep away the corrupt privileged elements, and let's put an end to the *yusin* system. Let's exercise the evil spirits of dictatorship from the land for ever so that the tragic history of suppression and humiliation may not be repeated. At this juncture, this is the great historical mission of all the students, young people, working people and democratic citizens in all walks of life.

November 24, 1979

The National Meeting against a Presidential Election by the NCU

Brief History of Korean Residents in Japan:

Formation of Joryun and Its Demize (1945-55)

Repartriation, Suppression By Americans

(Continued from the previous issue)

When Korea was liberated on Aug. 15, 1945, as a result of the defeat of Japan, there were about two million Koreans residing in this country. More than one million left here for home.

At first there were no restrictions on the amount of currency or goods they could take with them. But shortly after the American occupation forces arrived in Japan, severe limitations were placed upon it.

The U.S. occupation authorities published the first directive dealing with Korean repatriation on Nov. 1, 1945. The Koreans were offered free transportation back to Korea, but were permitted to take only 1,000 yen in cash and the baggage they could carry with them. Furthermore, a repatriate could not take anything which would be of value. After the world war ended, some discouraging rumors were spread about Korea. Reports reached Japan of floods and epidemics in the southern part of Korea, from which most of the Korean residents had come.

Those restrictions plus the situation created in Korea compelled some Koreans to abandon their return home and stay here. The U.S. occupation of south Korea also discouraged Koreans here to return their home. In the end, more than 600,000 Koreans did so.

By August, 1947, the official repatriation program was over. Although the official repatriation program was completed, the repatriation did not stop and it continued through out August, 1948.

In an attempt to clarify the legal status of the Koreans unrepatriated, the U.S. issued a decree on Nov. 20, 1946, that any Korean who remained fell under the jurisdiction of Japanese law.

On May 2, 1947, the Japanese government enforced the Foreigners' Registration Ordinance at the direction of the U.S. occupation authorities.

The registration of Koreans were undertaken toward the end of October the same year.

The main purpose of the ordinance was to have a complete grasp of foreigners residing in Japan and also to deport abroad any aliens who entered this country without the permission of the U.S. occupation authorities or who resided here in violation of the ordinance.

The Foreigners' Registration Ordinance, supposed to register all aliens residing in Japan, apparently was aimed at the Koreans and to suppress and deport them, because more than 90 per cent of those aliens resident were Koreans.

Later, the Japanese authorities continued to revise this ordinance in order to strengthen the supervision, suppression and deportation of the Korean nationals.

Thus, in 1949, the Japanese authorities strengthened the penal provisions of the ordinance and instituted a system by which aliens were required to renew their registration every three years. Further, they started the serial numbering of the Korean residents on a nationwide scale, though they had been numbered serially in each village, town or city.

At the end of 1952, they separated the provisions on procedures for registration from the ordinance and instituted the Foreigners' Registration Law. The law has become an effective means of fully investigating the status and family relations of the Koreans and checking on all aspects of their life and of jeopardizing their livelihoods and human rights. The Immigration and Emigration Control Ordinance and this Aliens' Registration Law are two major evil laws against the Koreans.

Pyongyang's Concern

Since the liberation of the country, President Kim Il Sung was concerned about the situation of Korean compatriots in Japan.

He has always linked the question of overseas compatriots closely to the task of the national liberation of the Korean people. The reason is that the movement overseas of many compatriots was one of the results of the colonial rule of Japan, and that they have been subjected to ruthless oppression and exploitation by reactionaries, even in foreign countries.

President Kim Il Sung made public an open letter entitled "To One Million Compatriots" to the Korean compatriots in this country in Dec. 13, 1946. In the letter he put forth the basic tasks of the Korean nationals. The decision of the North Korean Provisional People's Committee No.139 "On the Korean repatriates from Japan" (formulated on Dec. 26, 1946) was adopted and the warm care were paid to the repatriates.

The establishment of the DPRK gave to the overseas compatriots citizenship of a free, sovereign country.

President Kim Il Sung met the Korean representatives from Japan on Jan. 12, 1949 and said that Korean nationals should do its effort for defending their democratic national rights as overseas compatriots of the independent, sovereign state and educate their sons and daughters with the Korean language.

Encouraged by the warm concern of President Kim Il Sung and the establishment of the DPRK, Korean nationals here came to be active in the patriotic activities for the fatherland and the nation, upholding the banner of the DPRK.

Formation of Joryun, Minjon

Following the liberation of their homeland, Korean nationals in Japan organized Joryun (the League of Koreans Residing in Japan) in October, 1945, their first united front body.

Joryun set forth its action policy in its program: to contribute to the construction of the socialist fatherland; defend the legitimate rights of the Korean nationals in Japan and serve the peace of the world.

Joryun also published "Let's unite around the fatherland" and promoted the patriotic activities. Joryun sent its representatives to the Joint Conference of Representatives of Political Parties and Social Organizations in North and South Korea held in April 1948 in Pyongyang, protesting against the May 10, 1948 separate election by the U.S. and Syngman Rhee to establish a separate government in Seoul.

Joryun became more active after the founding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in 1948.

Among the most spectacular of the Joryun's activities were those undertaken for the implementation of national education with the Korean language.

Under the slogan "Those who have money give money, those who have knowledge give knowledge and those who have strength give strength," Joryun established schools for Koreans wherever they lived and operated an autonomous educational program. They trained their own teachers and published their own textbooks.

Until 1947, a total of 571 schools of various levels were set up throughout this nation, with around 60,000 students enrolled.

The U.S. occupation authorities long had been planning to institute radical changes in the Japanese school system and chose this occasion to bring the Korean schools strictly within the pale of Japanese law.

In the end of 1947, the U.S. occupation authorities suggested that the Japanese government see whether Korean schools were faithfully compliant with the directives of the Japanese Ministry of Education.

On Jan. 24, 1948, the Japanese Ministry of Education circulated a statement of policy with regard to Korean-operated schools, ordering Japanese standards to be applied to them.

The unaccredited Korean schools were ordered closed. Armed police raided the school, expelling pupils and students out of their classrooms. The Korean language had to be taught as an extra-curricular subject.

Under the leadership of Joryun, strenuous efforts were made to maintain the autonomy of Korean education.

The police met resistance in all parts of Japan as they closed Korean schools, but the most bloody clash occurred in Kobe.

On April 14, 1948, several thousand Koreans gathered in protest in front of the prefectural government office in Kobe and demanded to speak with the governor. The Japanese police dispersed the Koreans by force. On Apr. 24, a crowd of 500 Koreans came to the governor's private office and got him to withdraw his order closing the Korean schools.

A state of emergency was declared by the U.S. occupation authorities, the first and only time during the U.S. occupation of Japan. One Korean boy was shot to death and several hundred Koreans were arrested and imprisoned in the course of the execution of the closure order.

In 1949, more than 600 armed police were ordered into action in February, 1951 and more than 5,000 in March 1951 to attack the Tokyo Korean Middle and High School. The police raid left 220 students injured, many seriously.

Joryun did what it could to defend the democratic national rights such as human rights and the rights to existence.

The U.S. occupation authorities and the Japanese government issued an "Ordinance of Aliens' Estate Acquisition" in 1947 and attempted to apply it to the Korean small traders and industrialists. Korean nationals along with Joryun staged struggles to remove an article on the Koreans in the ordinance. Eventually, they won the rights to possess and inherit estate such as lands and buildings, within the foreign country.

The patriotic movement of Joryun faced double and triple difficulties and obstacles due to the constant suppression and persecution by the U.S.-led reactionaries and south Korean junta.

The U.S. occupied authorities feared the expanding activities of Joryun and the patriotic forces of the Korean nationals in Japan. For the occupation authorities, the Koreans in Japan became a "security problem." Under the instigation of the occupation authorities, the Japanese reactionaries disbanded Joryun in September 1949, branded it as an "anti-democratic" association that resisted orders of the occupation authorities."

Placed under the "garrison decree," Joryun and its affiliated organization Minchong (the Democratic Korean Youth League in Japan) were forced to disband themselves.

The Japanese government eventually confiscated the assets of Joryun, reportedly amounting to 4 billion yen and closed the remaining Korean schools under its jurisdiction. An end was put to the 4-year existence of Joryun.

With the outbreak of the Korean War came the severer suppression of Korean residents. The Japanese government directed the police to keep a close watch on the entire Korean population.

Inflamed by the heroic struggles of the people of the fatherland, Korean nationals here carried on stubborn resistance against tremendous odds. In January, 1951 came into being Minjon (the United Democratic Front of Koreans in Japan).

Minjon had spread propaganda defending the actions of the DPRK. It collected money for the DPRK and sent letters of encouragement of its troops. The Korean nationals did their efforts to defend their fatherland. Also staged were a peaceful signature campaign, and a movement protesting against the forced deportation.

However, flunkeyists and national nihilists, becoming particularly vicious in 1950s, drew Minjon in a wrong direction, preventing the participation of Koreans from establishing Juche. Ordeals beset the movement. They uncritically chimed in with what another country's people said. The result was the movement of Koreans misled to serve another country in an ultra-adventurist manner.

Under the instigation of the U.S., the Japanese ruling circles took an advatage of this state of affairs to intensify suppression and persecution.

Though their sacrifices were huge, the patriotic zeal of the Korean nationals was not channeled into the service to the fatherland. Estranged from the Japanese public, the movement of Koreans found itself in a grave pickle. The situation demanded the establishment of Juche in order to tide over the difficulties positively and start the patriotic undertaking along the right track.

Then, the Minjon was dissolved in the end of May, 1955 and the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun) was formed on May 25, 1955 under the wise guidance of President Kim Il Sung by adopting the Juche-motivated stand.

(To be continued)

The Japanese police raided the Korean schools in 1948 as part of the U.S. occupation authorities' plan to place them under the strict control.

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